AFRO National Briefs

UNCF Institute for Capacity Building Awards 23 Green Planning Grants

UNCF (the United Negro College Fund), the nation’s largest minority education organization, recently announced its Institute for Capacity Building (ICB) awarded 23 green planning grants totaling $240,000 to assist minority serving institutions (MSIs) with institutional sustainability planning. Additionally, this grant will encourage MSIs to participate in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a high-visibility effort which works to accelerate progress toward climate neutrality and sustainability.

Working in partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and Second Nature, the UNCF program seeks to ensure that future campus construction is certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, an internationally recognized green building certification system. “HBCUs and minority serving institutions understand the significance of climate change and environmental sustainability,” said Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO, in a press release. “One of the most significant benefits of The UNCF Building Green Initiative is that it works to build the knowledge and capacity of minority-serving institutions to create sustainable campus infrastructures.”

The colleges will share accomplishments and best practices during the National Building Green Learning Institute to be held in Atlanta, April 7-9, 2011. For more information on the UNCF Building Green Initiative, visit ibc.uncf.org.

Nonprofit Honors Singer Nancy Wilson for Humanitarian Work

Over 800 guests celebrated with the Brotherhood Crusade as they feted musical song stylist, legend and humanitarian, Nancy Wilson, recipient of the 2010 Pioneer of African American Achievement Award. The event took place at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Nov. 5. Wilson was honored for her courage in breaking down barriers for economic, social, political and moral justice, according to the organization. Berry Gordy, Arsenio Hall, Bill Duke, Congresswoman Diana Watson, Congresswoman-elect Karen Bass, Dawwn Lewis, were in attendance, along with other civic and national leaders. Jazz great Patti Austin provided the evening’s musical entertainment.

The Brotherhood Crusade is a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution founded in 1968 to provide resources for underserved communities.

HistoryMakers' 10th Anniversary Gala Convenes in Chicago

The HistoryMakers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recording and preserving the personal histories of recognized and unsung African Americans, will host its 10th anniversary gala in Chicago on Nov. 20. The event’s theme, “COMMIT: Telling America’s Stories...Celebration Our Future,” will bring over 100 HistoryMakers from around the nation. Special guests Denyce Graves, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Dionne Warwick, Owen Hill, Melba Moore and Susan Taylor will also be in attendance.

Among the HistoryMakers slated to attend are civil rights pioneer Amelia Boynton Robinson, 98; Little Rock Nine members Ernest Green and Carlotta Walls LaNier and “The Jazz Lady” Geraldine de Haas.

Since its inception, the organization has interviewed about 2,000 HistoryMakers, with the goal of creating an archive of 5,000 interviews (30,000 hours of testimony) for the establishment of a one-of-a-kind digital archive. This year, The HistoryMakers debuted its test digital archive developed by Carnegie Mellon University in partnership with the University of Illinois, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Columbia University, Drexel University, George Washington University, SUNY Buffalo and Morehouse College. The archive was released this year on a test basis in classrooms worldwide and is accessible at http://www.ihatemyhistory.org/

Teen's Shooting Death Sheds Light on House Party Dangers

Authorities in Conyers, Ga., are taking a "zero tolerance" policy toward house parties such as the one that claimed the life of an 18-year-old Dequavious Stephon Mapp on Nov. 14. Conyers Police Chief Genie Wilson told the Atlanta Journal Constitution, "What I've heard in the last 48 hours is that the community has had enough of these large parties," said Wilson, who told the newspaper he met with the Rockdale County Sheriff and other officials one day following the teen's death. Mapp was among three teenagers shot at the gathering. At AFRO press time, the other two victims were reportedly in stable condition.